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DAREDEVIL
TREE OF KNOWLEDGE IV OF V
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
GUEST-STARRING
GAMBIT
BUT NOT EVEN HE CAN SAVE D.D. AND NEW YORK FROM THE HI-TECH ASSASSINS CALLED--
MCDANIEL
SYSTEM CRASH
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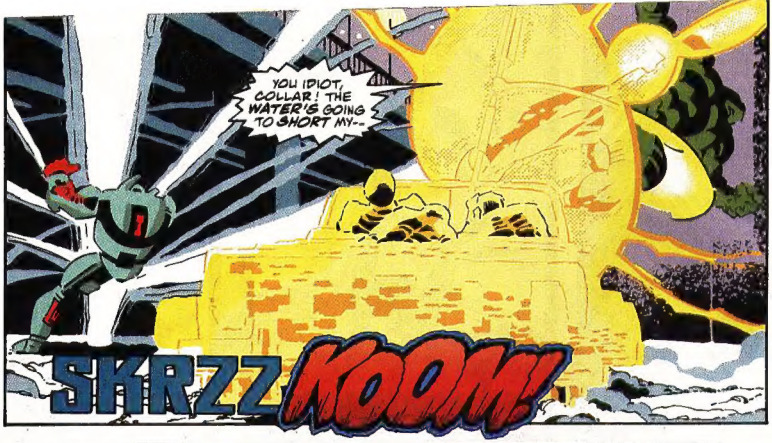
On Wednesday morning, at 2:32 AM, seven members of the New York National Guard lose their pride and their lives.
Compared to natural disasters and destructive machines, it almost seems mundane.
Tell that to the soldiers' wives and children. Tell their brothers, sisters and parents.
All pride aside, the man in the street is ever afraid.
Leaving a man without fear to continue the fight for justice.
"From now on, the Lindberg baby will always die."
-Gail Thackeray
former asst. Arizona Attorney General on the system's inadequacy to deal with technological threats
by D.G. Chichester & Scott McDaniel
Inker: Collazo & Rankin
Letterer: Bill Oakley
Colorist: Joe Andreani
Editor: Ralph Macchio
Chief: Tom DeFalco
Tree of Knowledge ~ Part 4
DISINFORMOCRACY

DAREDEVIL'S "RADAR" STROBES THE SCENE...
--CRUDE PATTERNS TO GUIDE HIM THROUGH HIS BLINDNESS.
TO LOCK HIM ON TARGET.
TOO MANY OPENINGS IN THAT RIG, ROBOT!
HRYAAG!
I'M NOT A ROBOT!
STILL TOUCHY ON THAT, STEEL COLLAR? VANITY'S GOING TO GET YOU IN TROUBLE SOMEDAY...
NEW YORK IS UNDER SIEGE.
THE "SILICON PIRATES"--SO-CALLED "INFORMATIONAL TERRORISTS" --CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY.
GUARD UNITS HAVE BEEN STATIONED AROUND THE CITY--LIKE HERE, AT SOUTH STREET SEAPORT--TO PRESERVE ORDER.
STOP SCREWING AROUND, COLLAR--GET HIM!
SVVRAAK!
BUT IN TRUTH, "PIRATES" ARE ONLY A FRONT FOR SYSTEM CRASH, STRIKE FORCE OF THE ANARCHIST GROUP HYDRA.
YOU HEARD THE MAN, ROBOT --COME AND GET ME!
I'M NOT A--
A SECRET SYSTEM CRASH IS WILLING TO KILL TO KEEP.
--ROBOT--?
I WARNED YOU...
WOOSH!


YOU IDIOT, COLLAR! THE WATER'S GOING TO SHORT MY--
SKRZZ
KOOM!

KILLOBYTE! ARE YOU--?
KEEP YOUR SPEAKERS DOWN, CYBORG!
BOYHOOD HEROICS COST MATT MURDOCK HIS SIGHT, BUT GAVE HIS OTHER SENSES AN EDGE.

WE'RE HERE TO SEED DISINFORMATION ON THE "SILICON PIRATES"... NOT RUN OUR ENTIRE PROGRAM FOR SOME VIGILANTE!
FIND HIM... SEE HE KEEPS QUIET!
KILLOBYTE'S ATTEMPT AT STEALTH FALLS FLAT ON EARS THAT FOLLOW SOUND AT DECIBELS PAST HUMAN HEARING.

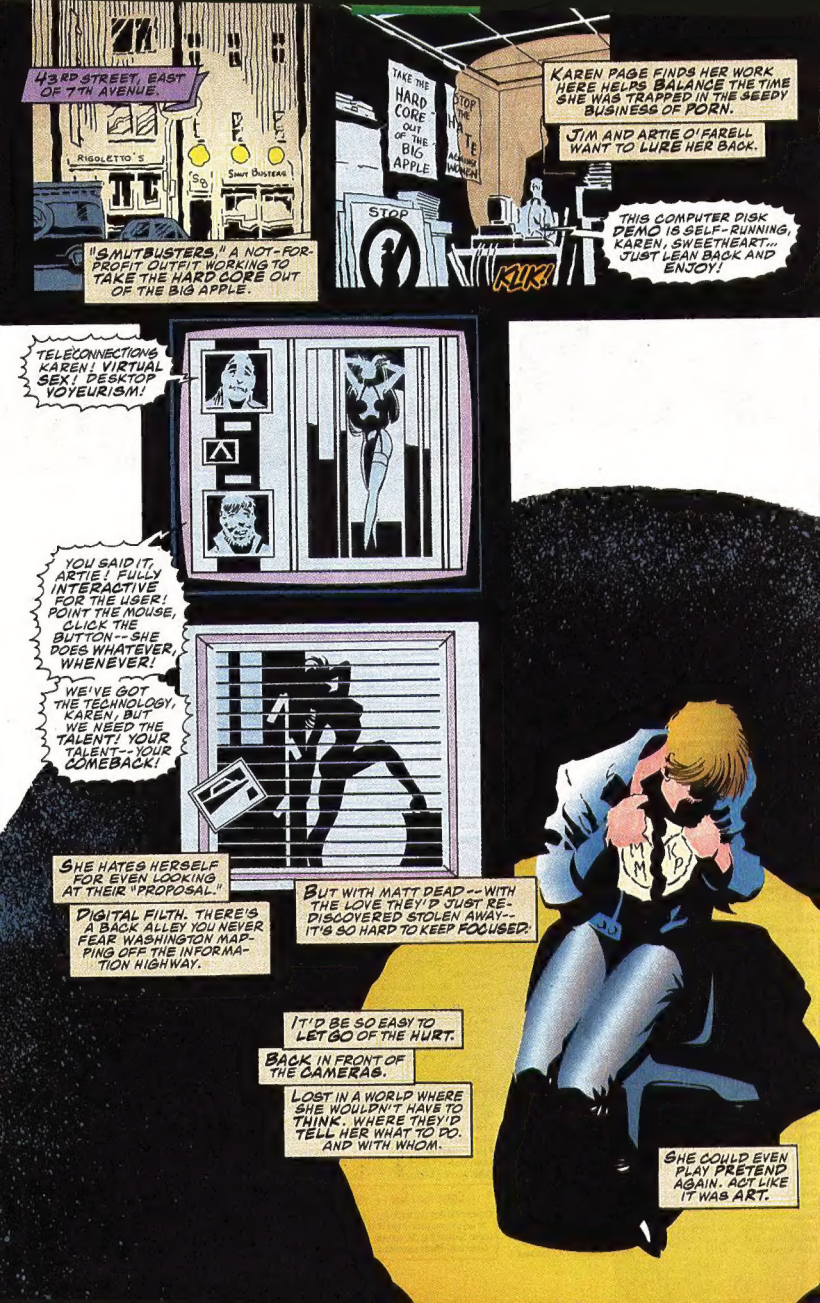
IT'S TOUGH TO GET THE DROP ON A MAN WHO TRACKS A FOOTSTEP'S VIBRATION THROUGH CONCRETE.

HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT.
YOU A QUICK ONE, DEVIL... I LIKE THAT!

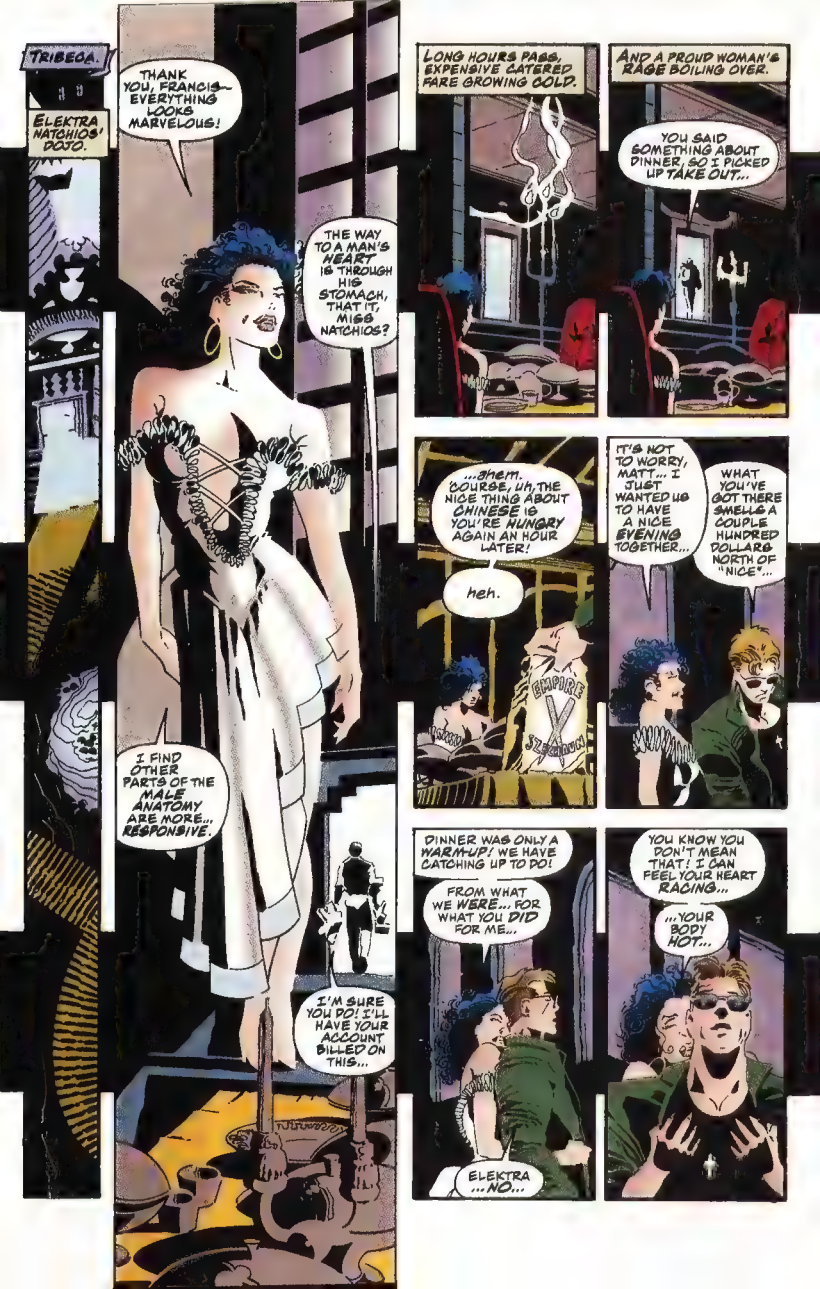
BUT THE GAME WIT' YOUR TWO FRIENDS THERE, IT'S A GAMBLE YOU CAN'T WIN ALONE!
SEEMS TO ME YOU BE NEEDIN' AN ACE-IN-DEE-HOLE!
I'M MORE PARTIAL TO THE WILD CARD, MYSELF!
I SHOULD'VE GUESSED...
MIND IF I MAKE THE FIRST DEAL?
THE MUTANT GAMBIT'S TALENT IS FOR TURNING AN OBJECT'S POTENTIAL ENERGY--
--INTO THE KINETIC.
BRAKATOOM!
INCOMING!!

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT!
SHAKOOM!
GYRAAKK!
FALL BACK!
BUT YOU SAID WE HAD TO QUIET--
THE DAMAGE IS DONE--LET'S TRY AND CONTAIN IT! FALL BACK!
GO AROUND THE SIDE! I'LL DRIVE THEM--
NO. THEY'RE NOT IMPORTANT...
UNDER THE SOUND OF HISSING METAL.
THE UNEVEN BEAT OF A SOLE HEART.
...NOT AS MUCH AS HE IS!
STILL ALIVE?
BARELY... HE'LL NEED ATTENTION, BUT I THINK HE'LL MAKE IT!

YOU'RE ONE OF THE X-MEN, RIGHT? GAMBIT?
YOU KEEP YOUR EAR TO THE GROUND, OUT HABITS LIKE THAT KEEP YOU ALIVE...
WORKS FOR ME.
HABITS LIKE THAT WILL KILL YOU.
AN' DANCIN' WIT' HEAVY MACHINERY'S GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH?
YOU HERE ON YOUR OWN, OR YOUR TEAM HAVE AN INTEREST?
WE WAS WONDERIN' IF DIS TERRORISM BE SOMETHIN' WE SHOULD BE CONCERNED WIT'...
...I WAS COMIN' IN THE CITY FOR SOME JAMBALAYA, SAID I'D CHECK IT OUT!
THE AVENGERS AN' FANTASTIC FOUR T'INK IT'S THESE "PIRATES"... WHAT ABOUT YOU?
EAR TO THE GROUND?
THIS ISN'T SOME TERRORIST CAUSE... THERE'S A PROFIT MOTIVE AT WORK! TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION...
THIEF'S A THIEF, WHETHER IT'S COIN OR COMPUTER DATA.
MIND IF I BORROW THIS? T'ANKS!
THIS IS A NUMBER FOR WETWARE-- ROVING RAVE CLUB-- PARTY SCENE FOR CYBER-THIEVES. MAYBE SOME ANSWERS.
I'M THE MINORITY VIEW. WHY LISTEN TO WHAT I'VE GOT TO SAY?
'CAUSE WORD IS YOU AIN'T THE SAME DAREDEVIL THAT YOU NOT TO BE TRUSTED. AN' I CAN RESPECT BEIN' STUCK WIT' THAT LABEL.
I'LL TELL M' FRIENDS IN WESTCHESTER THE SITUATION BE UNDER CONTROL.
DON'T MAKE A LIAR OUT O' ME, DEVIL...
DON'T WORRY.


43RD STREET, EAST OF 7TH AVENUE.
RIGOLETTO'S
SMUT BUSTERS
"SMUTBUSTERS," A NOT-FOR-PROFIT OUTFIT WORKING TO TAKE THE HARD CORE OUT OF THE BIG APPLE.
TAKE THE HARD CORE OUT OF THE BIG APPLE
STOP
KLIK!
KAREN PAGE FINDS HER WORK HERE HELPS BALANCE THE TIME SHE WAS TRAPPED IN THE SEEDY BUSINESS OF PORN.
JIM AND ARTIE O'FARELL WANT TO LURE HER BACK.
THIS COMPUTER DISK DEMO IS SELF-RUNNING, KAREN, SWEETHEART... JUST LEAN BACK AND ENJOY!
TELECONNECTIONS KAREN! VIRTUAL SEX! DESKTOP VOYEURISM!
YOU SAID IT, ARTIE! FULLY INTERACTIVE FOR THE USER! POINT THE MOUSE, CLICK THE BUTTON--SHE DOES WHATEVER, WHENEVER!
WE'VE GOT THE TECHNOLOGY, KAREN, BUT WE NEED THE TALENT! YOUR TALENT--YOUR COMEBACK!
SHE HATES HERSELF FOR EVEN LOOKING AT THEIR "PROPOSAL."
DIGITAL FILTH. THERE'S A BACK ALLEY YOU NEVER FEAR WASHINGTON MAPPING OFF THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY.
BUT WITH MATT DEAD--WITH THE LOVE THEY'D JUST RE-DISCOVERED STOLEN AWAY--IT'S SO HARD TO KEEP FOCUSED.
IT'D BE SO EASY TO LET GO OF THE HURT.
BACK IN FRONT OF THE CAMERAS.
LOST IN A WORLD WHERE SHE WOULDN'T HAVE TO THINK. WHERE THEY'D TELL HER WHAT TO DO. AND WITH WHOM.
SHE COULD EVEN PLAY PRETEND AGAIN. ACT LIKE IT WAS ART.

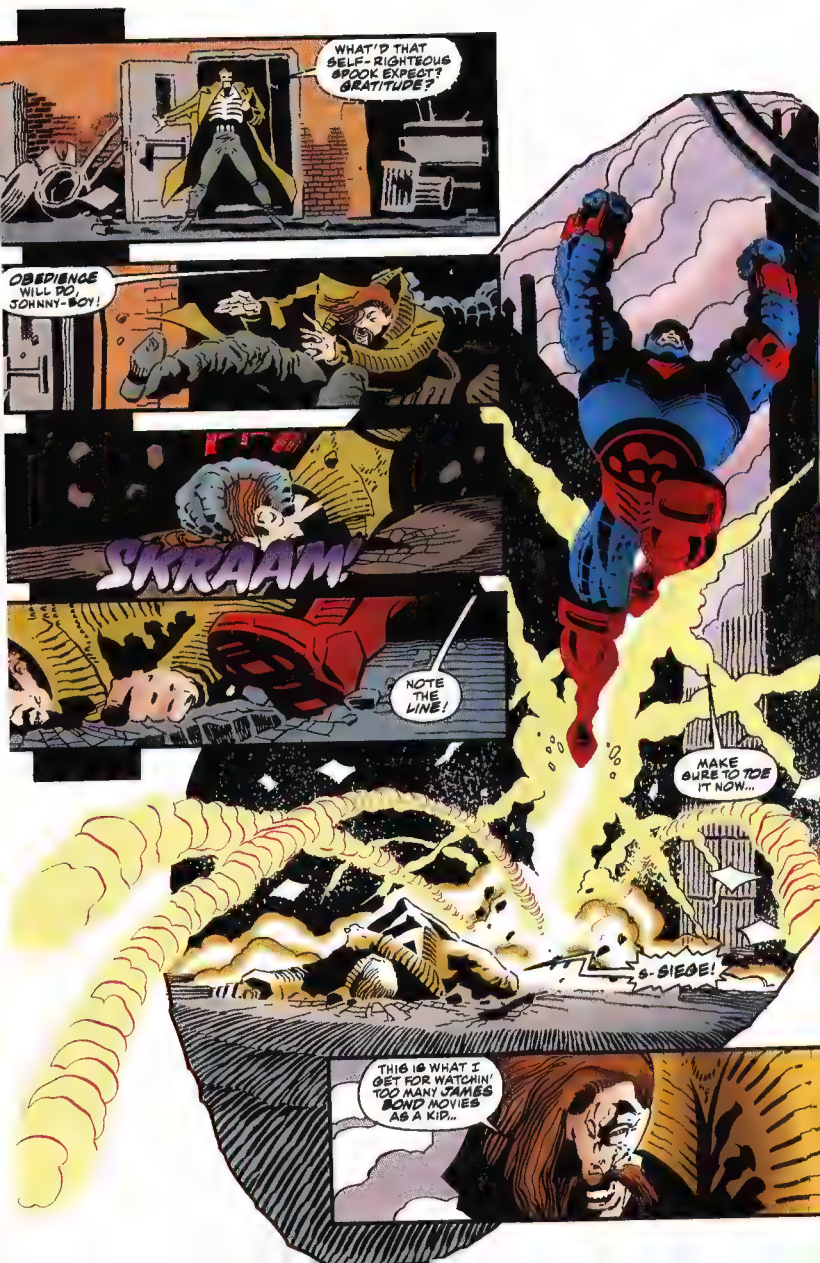
MAKE BELIEVE SHE WASN'T SELLING HER SOUL ALONG WITH HER BODY.
NO!
SKRAAM!
THE IMPACT JARS THE MAGNETIC DRIVE HEAD ACROSS THE DISK INSIDE THE COMPUTERS.
SLICK GRAPHICS EXPLODE IN A BURST OF BITS-AND-BYTES STATIC.
BLIPK!
SYSTEM ERROR. SERVES ME RIGHT--
THE IMAGE FLICKERS ON THE SCREEN FOR ONLY AN INSTANT.
SHUDDERING FRAMES OF COMPRESSED VIDEO.
ADULT HANDS, GRASPING, GROPING.
THERE'S NOTHING PROVOCATIVE HERE.
ONLY SOMETHING RAW AND UGLY.
BLIPK!
WHAT WAS THAT?! WHAT WAS--?!
OH, GOD, SHE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE THAN--
SHOW ME AGAIN, YOU STUPID MACHINE-- SHOW ME!
I'VE STILL GOT THE DISK, AND I'M GOING TO GET WHOEVER-- WHATEVER-- DID THAT TO YOU, HONEY.
I SWEAR I'M GOING TO GET THEM...


TRIBECA.
ELEKTRA NATCHIOS' DOJO.
THANK YOU, FRANCIS— EVERYTHING LOOKS MARVELOUS!
THE WAY TO A MAN'S HEART IS THROUGH HIS STOMACH, THAT IT, MISS NATCHIOS?
I FIND OTHER PARTS OF THE MALE ANATOMY ARE MORE... RESPONSIVE.
I'M SURE YOU DO! I'LL HAVE YOUR ACCOUNT BILLED ON THIS...
LONG HOURS PASS, EXPENSIVE CATERED FARE GROWING COLD.
AND A PROUD WOMAN'S RAGE BOILING OVER.
YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT DINNER, SO I PICKED UP TAKE OUT...
...ahem. 'COURSE, UH, THE NICE THING ABOUT CHINESE IS YOU'RE HUNGRY AGAIN AN HOUR LATER!
heh.
EMPIRE STATE
IT'S NOT TO WORRY, MATT... I JUST WANTED US TO HAVE A NICE EVENING TOGETHER...
WHAT YOU'VE GOT THERE SMELLS A COUPLE HUNDRED DOLLARS NORTH OF "NICE"...
DINNER WAS ONLY A WARM-UP! WE HAVE CATCHING UP TO DO!
FROM WHAT WE WERE... FOR WHAT YOU DID FOR ME...
ELEKTRA ...NO...
YOU KNOW YOU DON'T MEAN THAT! I CAN FEEL YOUR HEART RACING...
...YOUR BODY HOT...

I SAID NO!
WHAT IS THIS? THAT PAGE GIRL? YOUR GIRL-FRIDAY TURNED PORN STAR?
SHE THINKS YOU'RE DEAD, MATT-- JUST LIKE YOUR PASSION WAS WHEN YOU WERE WITH HER INSTEAD OF ME!
I CAN'T DENY WHAT WE HAD, ELEKTRA-- I DON'T WANT TO! BUT PICKING UP FROM THEN DOESN'T CONSIDER WHO I AM NOW--
--OR WHAT MY FEELINGS ARE! I'M NOT SOME MERCY DATE THAT YOU OWE FOR PULLING YOU BACK FROM THE GRAVE...
...AND I'M NOT TUMBLING IN THE SHEETS BECAUSE YOU THINK YOU'RE IRRESISTIBLE!
I DON'T THINK I LIKE THE TONE IN YOUR VOICE...
KLAANK!
LISTEN TO THE WORDS, THEN! MATT MURDOCK MAY BE "DEAD," BUT THAT HASN'T STOPPED ME FROM TRYING TO LIVE!
I'M SETTING UP A LIFE FOR MYSELF... MAYBE YOU NEED TO THINK ABOUT THE SAME!
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME AND MY EGG ROLL...
THE NINJA'S TRAINING GIVES HER ONLY ONE RESPONSE.
THE WAY OF THE ASSASSIN.
I'M USED TO PAYING MY DEBTS, MATT... AND GETTING WHAT I WANT!
DON'T EXPECT THIS TO BE ANY DIFFERENT...

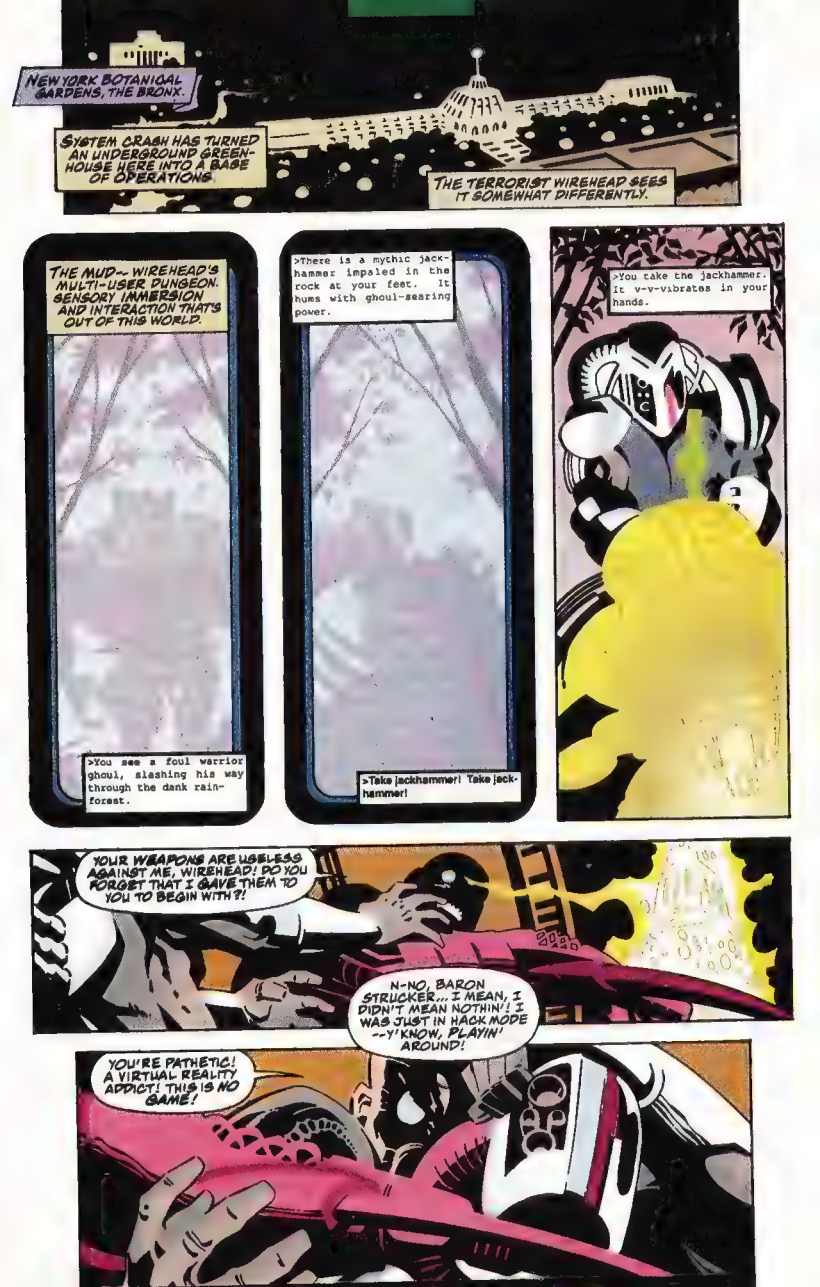
WEST 37th STREET.
BEHIND THE GRIT, THE SIGN PROCLAIMS: "ANGER'S CLOCKS & WATCHES--"
"--SERVING THE PUBLIC IN TIMELY WAYS SINCE 1963."
UNDER THAT COVER, THE ESPIONAGE AGENCY S.H.I.E.L.D. RUNS ITS BRANCH OFFICE.
M-MAKE IT S-STOP!
THE HARDWARE'S TIED IN TOO TIGHT TO WHAT'S LEFT OF HIS ORGANICS, COLONEL FURY...
MEET JOHN GARRETT.
ROGUE AGENT.
CYBORG HARDCASE.
DRUNKEN LECH.
YOU #?$! FURY... STOP...
... WE TAKE OUT THOSE SYSTEMS, HE'S GOING TO FLATLINE!
DON'T TEASE, TECHNICIAN.
ALL RIGHT, THEN ...SHUT IT DOWN!
MAKE YOURSELF PRETTY, GARRETT -- OR WHAT PASSES!
AND THAT BLACK LUNG YOU'RE WORKING ON IS VERY ATTRACTIVE TOO, COLONEL!

WE'RE CONTINUING TO TRACK THE AVENGERS' AND FANTASTIC FOUR'S LIAISON WITH THE STATE MILITIA, SIR!
KEEP ON IT, AGENT! IF THE SUPER-GUYS FUMBLE THIS "SILICON PIRATES" OP, WE'RE GONNA BE THE ONES TO CLEAN UP THE MESS!
WHAT A GUY! YOU STRAIGHT WITH ANYBODY, FURY?
OR DOES LACK OF DEPTH PERCEPTION MAKE THAT A PROBLEM?
ONLY DEPTH YOU GOTTA WORRY OVER IS SIX FEET UNDER, CYBORG!
I AIN'T LOOKING TO PUT YOU THERE--YET--BUT I AIN'T OUTTIN' YOU ALL THE WAY LOOSE, NEITHER!
YOU'RE ON RESERVE STATUS, HERE AN' NOW! NOT THAT I WANT YOU ON MY TEAM...
THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A BETTER MAN OF MYSELF...
...I ONLY HOPE I CAN LIVE UP TO THE COVERT, WARMONGERING STRONG-ARM IDEAL YOU SET SO WELL, NICKY!
...BUT IT MAKES YOU ANSWERABLE TO RULES O' CONDUCT!
BREAK 'EM AN' I BREAK YOU! CAPISCHE?
OH, YES, SIR, COLONEL FURY, SIR!
WHERE'S THE BABY-SITTER?
ON-LINE, SIR!

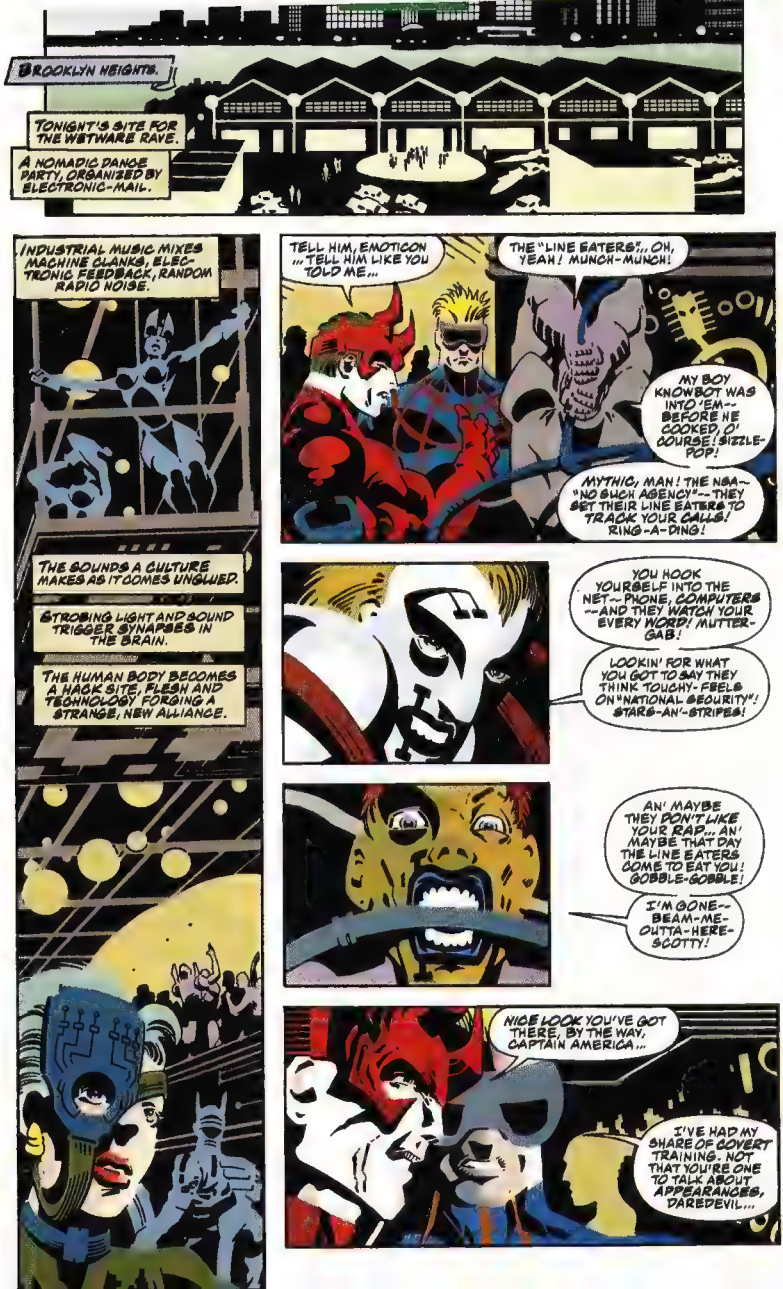

WHAT'D THAT SELF-RIGHTEOUS SPOOK EXPECT? GRATITUDE?
OBEDIENCE WILL DO, JOHNNY-BOY!
SKRAAM!
NOTE THE LINE!
MAKE SURE TO TOE IT NOW...
S-SIEGE!
THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR WATCHIN' TOO MANY JAMES BOND MOVIES AS A KID...

AVENUE C.
BUILDIN'S YOURS, BATLIN, SOON'S I PUT ON THE FINISHIN' TOUCHES!
I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, STITHY!
WHEN I SAID WORKOUT SPACE, I WAS THINKING A COUPLE OF PARALLEL BARS...
YEAH, WELL... AN ARTIST GOT TO FOLLOW HIS MUSE, Y'KNOW?
TO COVER WHO HE WAS, MATT MURDOCK CREATED "JACK BATLIN."
THE NAME AN HOMAGE TO HIS FATHER, "BATTLING JACK." THE CON-MAN PERSONA AN ENTRY INTO NEW YORK'S STREET LEVEL.
"BATLIN'S" NETWORKS FUEL DAREDEVIL'S CRUSADES.
AND THE ILLUSION OF IDENTITY HELPS ANCHOR MURDOCK WHEN HE THINKS OF WHAT--WHO--HE'S BEEN FORCED TO GIVE UP.
SIC SIC, DIC DIC! "HEY HEY, SAY SAY!"
NOW SET! MY INSPIRATION DON'T LIKE COMPANY!
YOU TEACH MEDIA AT ESU, LAMAR, RIGHT? GIMME HIGHBROW 2 CENTS ON THE AVERAGE JOE AND THIS INFO HIGHWAY...
SOME SCAM YOU'RE RUNNING, JACK?
A SOCIAL ENGINEER NEVER TIRES OF HIS WORK, PROFESSOR.
WELL, THE "COMPUTERIZATION" OF THE PUBLIC WILL REACH A LIMIT. COST, LACK OF UNDERSTANDING, WHATEVER--
--SOME PEOPLE ARE GOING TO BE LEFT OUT IN THE COLD. DECENT PEOPLE, PEOPLE WHO'D THRIVE IN ANOTHER SITUATION--
NOW THEY'RE OUTCASTS, TRAPPED IN THE DARK...
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN THERE!
Hmm. OVERACTIVE IMAGINATION.
IMAGINE THE NEW MASTERS OF CYBERSPACE, THEN! HOW WILL THEY REGARD THE OUTSIDERS? WITH CONTEMPT? INDIFFERENCE?
OR MAYBE IT'LL BE FEAR...

WORLDWIDE PLAZA.
THE LAW OFFICES OF NELSON & MURDOCK.
HOW LONG BEFORE THESE SILICON PIRATES STRIKE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?
HOW SOON DO YOUR CIVIL RIGHTS GO OUT THE WINDOW WITH COSTUMED VIGILANTES DECLARING MARTIAL LAW?
I'M ROBERT DENNEHY, AND THIS IS THE WFET WAR REPORT, BROADCASTING LIVE FROM--
WHERE ARE YOU WHEN I NEED YOU, MATT?
KNOCK-KNOCK! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE A FAN, COUNSELOR...
I'M NOT! "LIVE," MORE PRINCIPLED TELEJOURNALISM FROM THE HOUSE THAT FISK BUILT.
DON'T I HAVE A CIVIL SUIT AGAINST YOU AND YOUR STATION, "MR." DENNEHY?
ON BEHALF OF YOUR LATE PARTNER! LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, "MR." NELSON! CAN I CALL YOU FRANKLIN?
LIKE TO SEE MORE OF YOU IN COURT, FRANKY! IN FACT, WE'D LIKE YOU TO COME WORK FOR US!
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR AN INSULT YOU CAN USE AGAINST ME AT THE TRIAL...
WFET'S CLIMBING THE RATINGS! BUT SOMETIMES WE RUN INTO THIN-SKINS WHO DON'T LIKE THE WAY WE REPORT 'EM!
I LIKE THE WAY YOU CAME AFTER US FOR YOUR PAL! WE CAN USE A SHARP SHYSTER LIKE YOU TO HELP COVER OUR BACKSIDE!
THESE BILLS SAY THEY'RE ABOUT TO PULL YOUR PLUG, FRANKY... AND OVER AT WFET, WE'RE PLUGGING INTO TOMORROW!
YOU THINK ABOUT WHERE YOU WANT TO BE WHEN THAT DAY GETS HERE, COUNSELOR!
AND YOU BE HONEST WHEN YOU ASK IF YOU CAN GET THERE WITHOUT YOUR PARTNER...


NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDENS, THE BRONX.
SYSTEM CRASH HAS TURNED AN UNDERGROUND GREENHOUSE HERE INTO A BASE OF OPERATIONS.
THE TERRORIST WIREHEAD SEES IT SOMEWHAT DIFFERENTLY.
THE MUD-- WIREHEAD'S MULTI-USER DUNGEON. SENSORY IMMERSION AND INTERACTION THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD.
>You see a foul warrior ghoul, slashing his way through the dank rainforest.
>There is a mythic jackhammer impaled in the rock at your feet. It hums with ghoul-searing power.
>Take jackhammer! Take jackhammer!
>You take the jackhammer. It v-v-vibrates in your hands.
YOUR WEAPONS ARE USELESS AGAINST ME, WIREHEAD! DO YOU FORGET THAT I GAVE THEM TO YOU TO BEGIN WITH?!
N-NO, BARON STRUCKER... I MEAN, I DIDN'T MEAN NOTHIN'! I WAS JUST IN HACK MODE --Y'KNOW, PLAYIN' AROUND!
YOU'RE PATHETIC! A VIRTUAL REALITY ADDICT! THIS IS NO GAME!

~SILICON PIRATES CONTINUE TO WORRY OFFICIALS~
THIS IS A CRUSADE! A CAMPAIGN OF ANARCHY~
~AND ONLY THOSE WHO SURVIVE THE CHAOS CAN BE DEEMED WORTHY!
HIGH ENOUGH, KIVLOBYTE?
HARD DRIVE ACCESS DENIED!
WORRY MORE 'BOUT THE ROBOT'S SERVO-MOTORS CUTTIN' OUT!
JUST DON'T GET MUSCLE FATIGUE, STEEL COLLAR...
I'M NOT A ROBOT! LEAVE ME ALONE, BITMAP!
CHILL OUT! I JUST GOT A MORBID CURIOUSITY WHAT KINDA BATTERIES YOU TAKE...
SATELLITE TAP CONFIRMS IT, PEOPLE! TERRORIST ACTIVITY HAS SPOOKED THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY!
THEY'RE PULLIN' THE NEW YORK LINE EATER OUTTA THE NET SO IT CAN'T BE USED TO HACK INTO THE SYSTEM!
WE MOVE IN NOW AND NOBODY'LL KNOW WE BEEN THERE...
EXCELLENT, TECHNOSPIKE... NOW TO WHERE THIS "LINE EATER" FEEDS! WHAT PROGRESS, INFOMORPH?
S-SLOW, BARON... KNOWBOT'S ENCRYPTION KEEPS A LOCK ON THE DATA HE STOLE FOR US! I'LL T-TRY USING ONE OF HIS COHORTS...
RENDER COBOL CHARLIE IMAGE WITH BIO-GOURAUD SHADING...
THERE WAS A GIRL WITH KNOWBOT WHEN HE WAS KILLED... SINCLAIR SPECTRUM!
PERHAPS SHE CAN BE OF HELP IN DECRYPTING THIS KEY...
DID SOMEBODY MENTION A GIRL?
SINCLAIR BABY, ONCE YOU HAD A MAN UNDER THREE FEET, THERE AIN'T NO GOIN' BACK...


BROOKLYN HEIGHTS.
TONIGHT'S SITE FOR THE WETWARE RAVE.
A NOMADIC DANCE PARTY, ORGANIZED BY ELECTRONIC-MAIL.
INDUSTRIAL MUSIC MIXES MACHINE CLANKS, ELECTRONIC FEEDBACK, RANDOM RADIO NOISE.
THE SOUNDS A CULTURE MAKES AS IT COMES UNGLUED.
STROBING LIGHT AND SOUND TRIGGER SYNAPSES IN THE BRAIN.
THE HUMAN BODY BECOMES A HACK SITE, FLESH AND TECHNOLOGY FORGING A STRANGE, NEW ALLIANCE.
TELL HIM, EMOTICON ... TELL HIM LIKE YOU TOLD ME...
THE "LINE EATERS"... OH, YEAH! MUNCH-MUNCH!
MY BOY KNOWBOT WAS INTO 'EM--BEFORE HE COOKED, O' COURSE! SIZZLE-POP!
MYTHIC, MAN! THE NSA--"NO SUCH AGENCY"--THEY SET THEIR LINE EATERS TO TRACK YOUR CALLS! RING-A-DING!
YOU HOOK YOURSELF INTO THE NET--PHONE, COMPUTERS--AND THEY WATCH YOUR EVERY WORD! MUTTER-GAB!
LOOKIN' FOR WHAT YOU GOT TO SAY THEY THINK TOUCHY-FEELS ON "NATIONAL SECURITY"! STARS-AN'-STRIPES!
AN' MAYBE THEY DON'T LIKE YOUR RAP... AN' MAYBE THAT DAY THE LINE EATERS COME TO EAT YOU! GOBBLE-GOBBLE!
I'M GONE--BEAM-ME-OUTTA-HERE-SCOTTY!
NICE LOOK YOU'VE GOT THERE, BY THE WAY, CAPTAIN AMERICA...
I'VE HAD MY SHARE OF COVERT TRAINING. NOT THAT YOU'RE ONE TO TALK ABOUT APPEARANCES, DAREDEVIL...

WHATEVER HORNS YOU WEAR, THE EVIDENCE IS AGAINST YOUR BEING THE SAME MAN WHO USED TO HOLD THAT TITLE!
THEN WHY DID YOU COME HERE LIKE I ASKED?
I'M STILL NOT... COMFORTABLE... WITH THE AVENGERS' POSITION ON THIS TERRORISM! THE "PIRATES" ARE TOO CONVENIENT A SUSPECT...
...AND MARTIAL LAW AS A SOLUTION RUNS COUNTER TO EVERY GOOD I'VE HEARD IS SUPPOSED TO COME OFF THIS "INFOBAHN"!
A FATHER IS, SAY, A TAILOR! ALTERING PATTERNS WITH A LIGHT PEN, TRANSMITTING THEM TO HIS CUSTOMERS!
MOM'S A REAL ESTATE AGENT... WORKS AT HOME! A PORTABLE TERMINAL KEEPS HER UP ON LISTINGS WHILE SHE WORKS OUT!
THEIR SON LOGS ON TO ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS, ADVANCING HIMSELF THROUGH MULTIMEDIA DATABASES!
A VERY JEFFERSONIAN IDEAL, CAPTAIN-- FREE AND BENEFICIAL EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE!
I'D EXPECT NOTHING LESS COMING FROM YOU!

BUT WHO'S GOING TO PAY FOR THE ACCESS TO THESE MIRACLE SYSTEMS?
AND IF SOMEONE CAN'T PAY, WHAT RIGHT DO THEY HAVE TO SOMETHING THEY HAVEN'T HAD A HAND IN DEVELOPING?
EXCUSE ME IF I PLAY DEVIL'S ADVOCATE FOR A SECOND...
WHAT IF MOM SELLS FLESH INSTEAD OF HOMES? SHE'S A MADAM, YOU SEE -- BEAMING IMAGES OF PROSTITUTES IN ACTION TO PROSPECTIVE CLIENTS?
DAD, HE'S A NARCO-TRAFFICKER. ENCRYPTION AND PHONE FORWARDING KEEP HIS DRONES FROM KNOWING WHO HE IS...
...WHILE DIGITAL CASH KEEPS HIS MONEY BOTH HIDDEN AROUND THE WORLD AND AT HIS FINGERTIPS!
AND JUNIOR? A SPACED-OUT MOUSE-JOCKEY -- THE NEW BREED OF DISAFFECTED TEEN WHOSE "LIFE" IS CRACKING COMPUTERS!
I CAN'T SAY I MUCH LIKE YOUR VISION...
I DON'T TELL THE FUTURE, CAPTAIN.
BUT WHICHEVER ONE OF US IS RIGHT, CAN WE AFFORD TO HAVE SOMEONE SCREWING AROUND WITH EITHER TOMORROW?

THE TOMBS PRISON.
100 CENTRE STREET, MANHATTAN.
OF COURSE THE DATACORPS HAVE TO CALL ME A THIEF!
OTHERWISE, THEY'RE USING THE JUSTICE SYSTEM ON PEOPLE WHO WANT TO LEARN THINGS THAT ARE FORBIDDEN!
AND IN AMERICA, ANY PRETEXT FOR PUNISHMENT IS BETTER THAN JAILING PEOPLE TO PROTECT RESTRICTED INFO!
I'M ONLY A COURT-APPOINTED PUBLIC DEFENDER, MS. SPECTRUM... I'M NOT PAID TO CARE ABOUT YOUR POLITICAL VIEWS!
HOW CAN YOU HELP IF YOU WON'T TAKE TIME TO UNDERSTAND?
FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE IS THE BASIC CURRENCY OF THE DIGITAL UNDERGROUND! THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!
NOT 500 HOME SHOPPING CHANNELS! NOT PAY-PER-VIEW MOVIES ON DEMAND! NOT--
LOOK, THEY DON'T CALL PROSECUTOR MALPER "THE DRAGON LADY" FOR NOTHING! SHE'S GOING TO NAIL YOU UNLESS WE PLEA THIS DOWN--
DID YOU KNOW THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO STICK SOMETHING CALLED A CLIPPER CHIP IN ALL OUR PHONES, OUR FAX MACHINES, OUR COMPUTERS?
IT'D GIVE THEM A BACK DOOR TO TAP INTO YOUR COMMUNICATIONS! SO LONG PRIVACY, HELLO BIG BROTHER!
PLEASE, NOT AGAIN--
--P-PLEASE --N-NO--
DON'T WHINE! I'LL STOP ALREADY--
--OMIGOD--
Y'KNOW, SISTER, YOU TALK A GOOD BLEEDIN' HEART TALK... BUT UNDERNEATH, Y'KNOW WHAT I HEAR?
SAME AS ANY OTHER DARK-SIDE HACKER-- ALL HOT AND BOTHERED BY THE PROMISE OF TECHNICAL POWER!

"PNAMBIC," BABE--PAY NO ATTENTION TO THAT MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN!
I'M OFFERIN' YOU ALL THE TECH POWER YOU CAN WIRE INTO!
AND ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS SAY THE MAGIC ENCRYPTED WORD...
NEXT: "The Line Eaters" --IN THIRTY!